

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16 are amended herein.

112 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Independent Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16 are amended herein. Claims 3-5, 7, 10-12, 14, 17-19 and 21 are dependent on either Claims 1, 8 and 15. Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims overcome the basis for rejecting Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

103 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12, 14-17, 19 and 21

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12, 14-17, 19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shakib et al. ("Shakib;" US 5,752,025) in view of AddressPro. The Applicant has reviewed the cited references and respectfully asserts that Shakib and AddressPro, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the embodiments of the present invention recited in Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12, 14-17, 19 and 21.

Applicant respectfully asserts that Shakib does not show or suggest the claimed user interface mechanism. Specifically, Applicant respectfully asserts that Shakib does not show or suggest a method comprising "displaying a group of sort instructions stored in said sort table, wherein said group of sort instructions comprises a plurality of sort fields for said

first category type; ... receiving an indication from said user that selects a selected one of said sort fields from said plurality of sort fields;" and in response to the indication, "displaying a pop-down list comprising sort fields that can be used instead of said selected one of said sort fields, wherein said user can replace said selected one of said sort fields with a sort field selected from said pop-down list" as recited in independent Claim 1. Claims 2-3, 5 and 7 are dependent on Claim 1 and recite additional limitations.

In addition, Applicant respectfully asserts that Shakib does not show or suggest a method comprising "displaying a group of sort instructions stored in said sort table, wherein said group of sort instructions comprises a plurality of sort fields for said first category type; ... receiving an indication from said user that selects a selected one of said sort fields from said plurality of sort fields;" and in response to the indication, "displaying a pop-down list comprising sort fields that can be used instead of said selected one of said sort fields, wherein said user can replace said selected one of said sort fields with a sort field selected from said pop-down list" as recited in independent Claim 8. Claims 9-10, 12 and 14 are dependent on Claim 8 and recite additional limitations.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that Shakib does not show or suggest an electronic device that implements a method comprising "displaying a group of sort instructions stored in said sort table, wherein said group of sort instructions comprises a plurality of sort fields for said first category type; ... receiving an indication from said user that selects a

selected one of said sort fields from said plurality of sort fields;" and in response to the indication, "displaying a pop-down list comprising sort fields that can be used instead of said selected one of said sort fields, wherein said user can replace said selected one of said sort fields with a sort field selected from said pop-down list" as recited in independent Claim 15. Claims 16-17, 19 and 21 are dependent on Claim 15 and recite additional limitations.

Applicant further submits that AddressPro does not overcome the shortcomings of Shakib. Applicant understands AddressPro to provide a user interface for changing sort order. However, as presented below, Applicant submits that the user interface of AddressPro is different from that of the present claimed invention.

Embodiments of the present claimed invention provide a user interface mechanism that allows a user to modify the contents of a sort table to alter sort instructions used for sorting records by category. As presented in the claims, a sort table (e.g., element 310 of Figure 7 of the instant application) is accessed to establish a primary sort field (e.g., primary sort field 310b of Figure 7) for a category. The primary sort field is used to produce a first sorted list (e.g., list 410a of Figure 9). Then, a group of sort instructions (e.g., group 515 of Figures 13A and 13B) for the category can be displayed to the user. The group of sort instructions includes a listing of sort fields for the category (e.g., sort fields 520b, 520c and 520d of Figures 13A and 13B). By selecting from the group of sort instructions a sort field that is currently being used (e.g., sort field 520c of Figure 13B), a

pop-down list of sort fields (e.g., pop-down list 530 of Figure 13B) is displayed. The pop-down list includes sort fields that can be used to replace the sort field (e.g., sort field 520c) currently being used. The user can then select a sort field from the pop-down list to replace the sort field currently being used. Thus, according to embodiments of the present claimed invention, the pop-down list is accessed and displayed via the list of sort fields in the group of sort instructions.

The user interface of AddressPro v4.0 by ZingWare (“AddressPro”) is described in Section 6.2 of that reference. As understood by the Applicant, to establish a sort order for a category according to AddressPro, the user selects the category and then chooses a main sort field and a secondary sort field from a predefined list. To change the sort order, the user again selects the category, then chooses the main sort field and the secondary sort field from the same predefined list.

In contrast to AddressPro, according to the present claimed invention as described above, to change a sort order, the user selects a sort field already in use and, in response to that selection, is provided with a pop-down list of potential replacement sort fields. Thus, the present claimed invention provides a different user interface than that provided by AddressPro. Applicant respectfully submits that the sorting schemes of AddressPro (alone or in combination with Shakib) do not show or suggest the claimed pop-down list, which is created (displayed) and accessed via the claimed list of sort fields in the group of sort instructions.

More specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that AddressPro, alone or in combination with Shakib, does not show or suggest "displaying a group of sort instructions stored in said sort table, wherein said group of sort instructions comprises a plurality of sort fields for said first category type; ... receiving an indication from said user that selects a selected one of said sort fields from said plurality of sort fields;" and in response to the indication, "displaying a pop-down list comprising sort fields that can be used instead of said selected one of said sort fields, wherein said user can replace said selected one of said sort fields with a sort field selected from said pop-down list" as recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 15.

In summary, Applicant respectfully submits that AddressPro, alone or in combination with Shakib, does not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 15. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting these Claims 1, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed and that Claims 1, 8 and 15 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant also respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claims 2-3, 5, 7, 9-10, 12, 14, 16-17, 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed, as these claims are dependent on allowable base claims and recite additional limitations.

Claims 4, 11 and 18

Claims 4, 11 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shakib in view of AddressPro and further in view of Eagle (US 6,226,739). The Applicant has reviewed these references and respectfully asserts that the present invention as recited in Claims 4, 11 and

18 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Shakib, AddressPro and Eagle, alone or in combination.

As presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that Shakib and AddressPro, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 15. Claim 4 is dependent on Claim 1 and recites additional limitations, Claim 11 is dependent on Claim 8 and recites additional limitations, and Claim 18 is dependent on Claim 15 and recites additional limitations.

Eagle does not overcome the shortcomings of Shakib and AddressPro. Specifically, Applicant respectfully asserts that Eagle, alone or in combination with Shakib and AddressPro, does not show or suggest "displaying a group of sort instructions stored in said sort table, wherein said group of sort instructions comprises a plurality of sort fields for said first category type; ... receiving an indication from said user that selects a selected one of said sort fields from said plurality of sort fields;" and in response to the indication, "displaying a pop-down list comprising sort fields that can be used instead of said selected one of said sort fields, wherein said user can replace said selected one of said sort fields with a sort field selected from said pop-down list" as recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 15.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 4, 11 and 18 are also not shown or suggested by Shakib, AddressPro and Eagle, alone or in combination, as these claims recite limitations in addition to those of

Claims 1, 8 and 15. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claims 4, 11 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed, and that Claims 4, 11 and 18 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

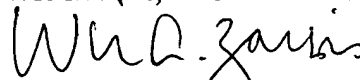
In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of these claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

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Respectfully submitted,
WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP



William A. Zarbis
Reg. No. 46,120

Two North Market Street
Third Floor
San Jose, California 95113
(408) 938-9060